

Washington, DC— Today the House passed H.Res.936, a resolution introduced by Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) that honors the bicentennial of a plan that guided America's infrastructure investments in the 19th century. Crafted by Thomas Jefferson's Secretary of the Treasury, Albert Gallatin, the plan implemented George Washington's vision of connecting the interior settlements with the markets and ports of the East Coast through a network of roads and canals.

"Gallatin understood that for our new nation to prosper, we had to invest in our infrastructure. 200 years later, it is no different," said Congressman Blumenauer. "If we want to boost our sagging economy and make America less dependent on foreign oil, then we must invest and plan for the greatest challenge of this century: global warming. The images of Katrina and the Minneapolis bridge collapse are strong reminders of America's urgent need to develop a national plan that guides our investments, creates jobs, addresses global warming and boosts our economy. My resolution is not about looking behind us, but looking ahead and establishing a new national vision."

Congressman Blumenauer's resolution honors the Gallatin Plan, celebrates the national unity the Gallatin Plan engendered, and recognizes the vast contributions that national planning efforts have provided to the United States. It is also a call to arms to craft a new national.

"In 2008, 200 years after Thomas Jefferson and Secretary Gallatin, 100 years after Theodore Roosevelt, in keeping with the traditions of visionary leaders like them, we are prepared to invest in America's strength," said Speaker Pelosi. "We again must invest in our infrastructure to do so. Today, that means green solutions, such as mass transit, and modern solutions, such as expanding broadband across America. Whether we're talking about roads or bridges or mass transit, whether we're talking about canals and waterways, sewage and water facilities, whether we're talking about broadband, or we're talking about the grid to transmit electricity, whether we're talking about schools, an investment in infrastructure that serves the needs of our children and their education, all of this infrastructure needs a major infusion of capital and we would want to do that in a fiscally sound way."

Congressman Blumenauer is a recognized leader in Congress and Oregon for his innovative accomplishments in transportation, planning, and the environment. A former member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Congressman Blumenauer is a strong advocate for federal policies that address transportation alternatives, provide housing choices, support sustainable economy, and improve the environment.

Appointed this year to the powerful Committee on Ways and Means, the Budget Committee and the Select Committee on Global Warming and Energy Independence, Congressman Blumenauer has continued his work to address global warming and invest in America's infrastructure.

He has authored and co-sponsored legislation to preserve and protect public lands, shift the nation's energy policy towards renewable energy and energy efficiency, curb global warming and clean our nation's water bodies.